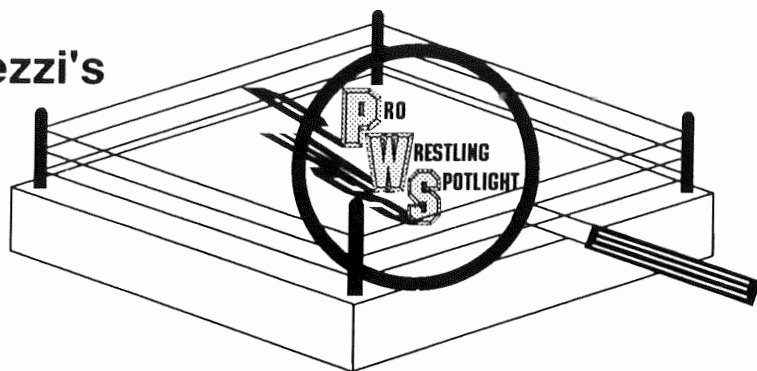


John Arezzi's

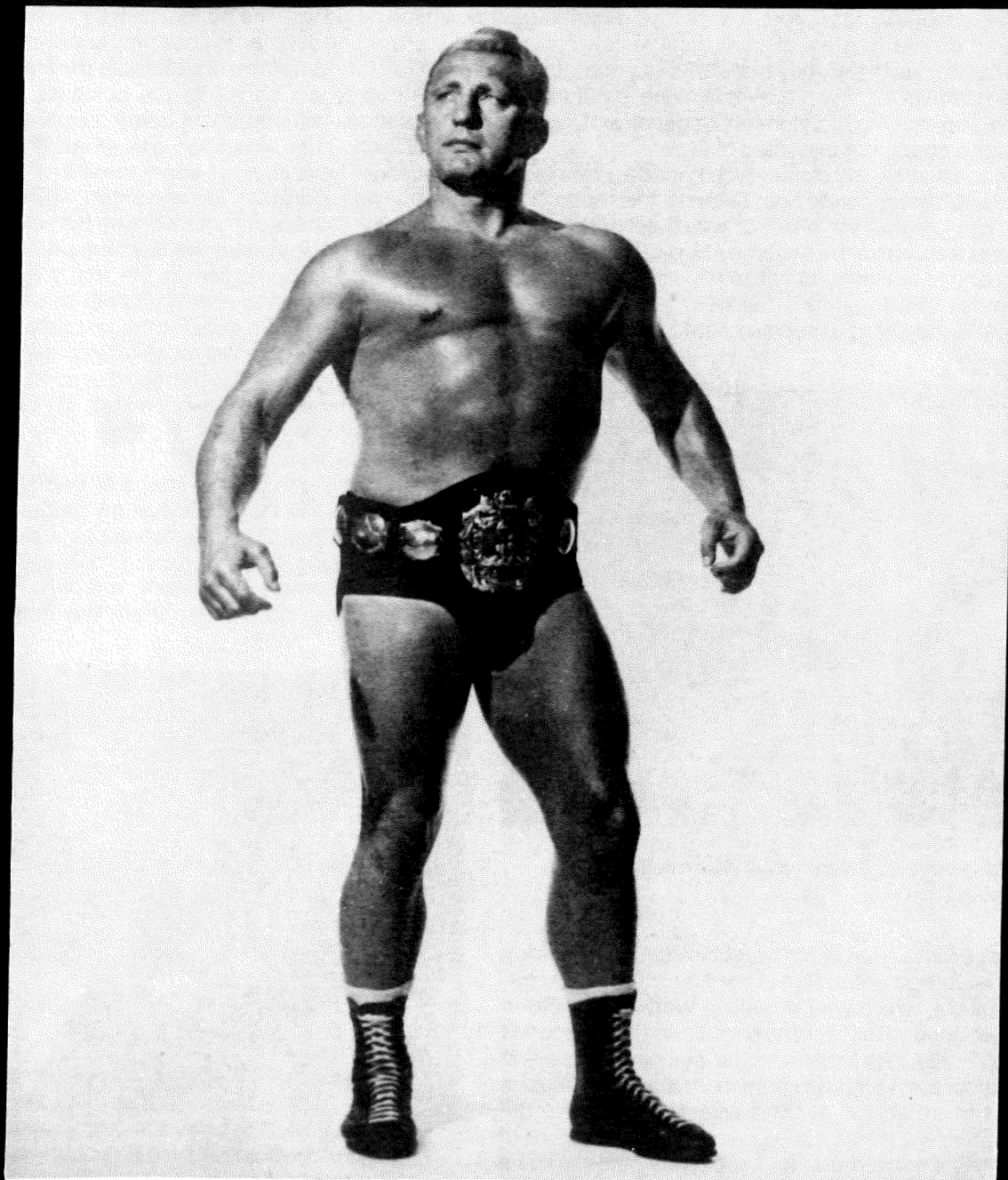


# Newsletter

July 13, 1992

Issue #6

\$1.50



**BUDDY ROGERS**

1921 -1992

# Wrestling Loses One Of Its Legends

## Buddy Rogers Dead At 72

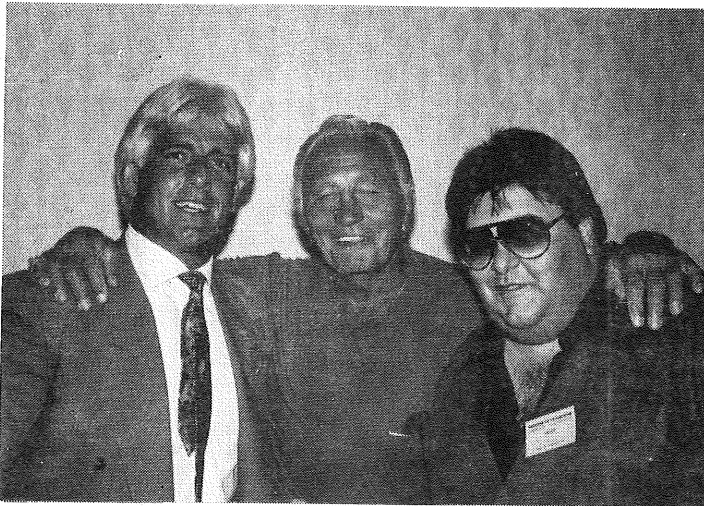
### A Special Mat Memory

*By John Arezzi*

When I first heard that Buddy Rogers had suffered a "mild stroke" a few weeks back, I was shocked. Just last year, Buddy was the life of the party at the annual Weekend Of Champions convention. He looked so good that, then TWA Promoter Joel Goodhart, worked a deal out with him to wrestle again in the match that was scheduled for (but never took place) January 28th of this year.

Last week Georgiann Markopoulos of the Wrestling Chatterbox (and one of Rogers' closest friends) called me close to tears, telling me that Buddy had suffered yet another stroke. This time however, it was a massive one, paralyzing the Nature Boy and causing him to lose his speech and sight. He was in a deep coma, not expected to live.

Like many who knew Buddy closely, you hoped and prayed for a miracle, halfway expecting one, because this man was so full of life. You just knew that Buddy would get out of that hospital bed and walk out to the beach, as he did everyday for his daily swim and to maintain that deep tan of his. It was not to be. Last Friday evening, (June 26) Georgiann called me and told me that Buddy had passed away at 11:15 PM. I didn't know what to say.



One of my proudest moments. The original Nature Boy Buddy Rogers, his protege Ric Flair and I at last years convention.  
Photo by Don Laible

When I first became a fan of pro wrestling, it was past Buddy Rogers' prime. I read about him in the first wrestling magazine I ever bought, which was Wrestling World. In it, Bruno Sammartino described the night he beat Buddy in 47 seconds for the WWWF title. As I followed the business those first exciting years for me, I began to read more about the "Nature Boy." It was in an edition of "The Wrestler", I believe the October 1967 issue, which carried a story on the return of Buddy Rogers. It excited me, as I hoped it would mean he would return to the WWWF. But that never happened.

Over the years, the Rogers legend grew for me. In the early '80's, although I was "out of the business", when Rogers

Corner debuted on the WWF telecasts, I watched it like a little kid. I finally got to see the great Rogers.

While putting together last years convention, my idea was to bring together some of the greatest champions ever, and Rogers certainly fit the criteria. Once again my dear friend Georgiann came to my aid, giving me Buddy's number. I remember actually being scared to call him, as I was the first time I called Bruno. These guys were heroes of mine. When I got Buddy on the phone, he was apprehensive at first of the idea. It was during the second call to him, when he committed to come to the Weekend Of Champions. After committing, Buddy went all out to promote the weekend, appearing with me on several wrestling radio shows to help sell tickets.

That weekend last year will be one I'll never forget, especially now, since Buddy won't be with us for another one. He was a hit with everyone who attended, swapping stories with everyone from promoters to fans. He seemed to have as much fun being with the people as they were being with him. The convention seemed to put a new energy in Buddy. He left New York for his home in Lauderdale By The Sea in Florida, pumped up to get back into the business. He had many conversations with me about doing a convention in Florida, but with my huge financial loss from The Weekend Of Champions, I just couldn't afford to do it.

Buddy was extremely disappointed when Joel Goodhart went out of business one week before his scheduled return to the ring. He appeared for the last time on my radio show on January 19th to apologize to the many fans who bought tickets to see him, and now would not be able to.

I spoke to Buddy Rogers for the last time in March of this year, telling him about my plans for yet another convention. At that time, I had hoped to put together a live card as well, and give Buddy the chance to work again. My plans changed as far as the live show, but I would have loved to have included him at this years convention.

I can't say I was a close friend of Buddy Rogers, but he made me feel like I was. One of my biggest thrills in all the years I've been in this crazy business was doing business with and meeting Buddy Rogers. Pro Wrestling lost one of its greatest performers last week, one who cannot ever be replaced. They don't make them like Buddy Rogers anymore.



Buddy with one of his biggest fans, Johnny Valiant at last years Pro Wrestling Spotlight "Weekend of Champions" convention.

# WEEKEND OF CHAMPIONS III UPDATE

Several names have been confirmed for the third annual Weekend of Champions wrestling fans convention, promoted by Pro Wrestling Spotlight, to be held Saturday August 29th and Sunday August 30th, 1992 at The Ramada Hotel at LaGuardia Airport, Elmhurst, Queens, New York.

Signed to appear thus far include:

2-Time WWF Champion  
"Living Legend" Bruno Sammartino

Killer Kowalski

Jerry "The King" Lawler

"Hotstuff" Eddie Gilbert

2-Time Woman's Champ Wendy Richter

Nikolai Volkoff

Next week the rest of the names will be announced.

We are attempting to sign Japanese star **Jushin Thunder Liger**, as well as form two special reunions, bringing together for the first time in at least a decade, the **original Valiant Brothers**, and reunite former friends **Larry Zbyszko** with **Bruno Sammartino**.

In addition, we have contacted World Championship Wrestling and invited **Jim Ross** and **Cowboy Bill Watts**, among other celebrities.

"**Super Ticket**" packages are now on sale for \$70 for The Weekend, which gets you admission both days, autographs of all the stars, 8X10 photos of all the stars, a souvenir T-shirt, a souvenir program, an 11X14 lithograph of all the stars, guaranteed seating for the Saturday night Q & A session with the stars, plus early admission to the convention. No waiting on long lines. Only 200 Super Ticket packages are available.

Call John Arezzi at (516)587-2861 to reserve your Super Ticket. The Ramada Hotel is holding a LIMITED NUMBER of discounted rooms for those people coming in for The Weekend. Call (718)446-4800 and ask for Dominic Agate to reserve your room.

Dealer tables are available for \$100 for one day and \$175 for both days. Call John Arezzi to reserve your table.

Early purchase of Super Tickets, and early reservations of dealer tables are recommended. The earlier you buy your Super Ticket the earlier you will be let in, and the earlier you reserve your table, the better spot you'll get in the Ballroom.

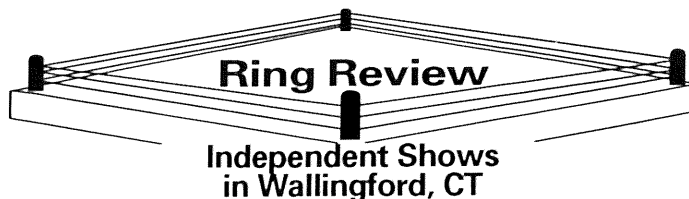
## This Just In....

On July 5 in Atlanta's Omni the Light Heavyweight title once again changed hands when **Brad Armstrong** defeated **Scotty Flamingo**. Flamingo had won the belt from Brian Pillman on June 20th, at the Beach Blast Pay-Per-View event.

On the same card, new Tag Team Champions were also crowned when **Terry "Bam Bam" Gordy** and **"Dr. Death" Steve Williams** defeated the **Steiner Brothers**. Gordy/Williams had recently defeated the Steiners in the second round of the NWA Tag Team Tournament.

There are new US Tag Team Champs. The new team of **"Dirty" Dick Slater** and the **Barbarian** defeated the **Freebirds** several weeks ago. The US Tag Team belts are expected to be phased out before the end of the summer.

In surprise move, former champ **Bob Backlund** returned to the ring for the WWF on July 1 at the Westchester County Center. In his first match he defeated Skinner with a sunset flip to a mixed response from the crowd.



by Dan Reilly

Independent show - held on Saturday June 27 at Century Toyota in Wallingford, CT. This is another one of their FREE outdoor shows. Free wrestling, free hot dogs and free soft drinks. It was a fun day and the price sure is right! Show started at 12 Noon and was over at 2:30 PM.

Estimated attendance, between 100-200. People coming and going. Not a good turn out.

- 1 - Tazmaniac Over Scott Taylor
- 2 - Warlord Squashed Hurricane Steve Ramsey
- 3 - Ray Odyssey/Paul Zion Over Chris Candito/  
Flex Lavender
- 4 - Kevin Sullivan Over Tommy Dreamer
- 5 - Jimmy Snuka Defeated The Metal Maniac  
(Snuka was pathetic)
- 6 - Honkey Tonk Man DDQ Vic Steamboat
- 7 - Don Muraco "The Rock" No Contest Against Tony Atlas

Low point of the show - Muraco getting on the house mike and telling Atlas "You look like the guys who pulled that trucker out of his cab in Los Angeles", and this is a face talking...Ugh!

Show #2 - Sunday night June 28 also in Wallingford, CT at the Oakdale Music Theater. A very nice 4000 seat venue. This time tickets were sold, \$12.50/adults, and \$7.50/children. This time I was told "The boys will have their working shoes on." Here we go. Estimated attendance 1500, about one-third full...decent crowd.

## Pro Wrestling Spotlight Interview With Dave Meltzer

### Part 2

- 1 - Ray Odyssey VS Tommy Dreamer Time Limit Draw (half \*)
- 2 - "The Unpredictable" Johnny Rodz Defeated Mr. Charisma Chris Candito - (Managed by "Sexy" Sonny Blaze - Rodz really tries for a guy his age - Over good with the crowd - \* and a half)
- 3 - Locals "Prime Time" Paul Zion Defeated Flex Lavender (half \*)
- 4 - Scott Taylor Pinned The Metal Maniac (Quick-Dud)
- 5 - "Hot Stuff" Eddie Gilbert/Vic Steamboat Over Kevin Sullivan and Tazmaniac Via DQ (\* and a half - could have been a lot better)
- 6 - Six person tag team - Misty Blue, Crystal Blue and Little Louie Defeated Nasty Girl (Kat LaRoux and Linda Dallas) and Little Doomer. (Dud)
- 7 - Tony Atlas (with Manager Tony Rumble) Defeated "Superfly" Jimmy Snuka (When Atlas used Rumble's helmet to belt Snuka - Match was waltzed in slow motion - half \*)
- 8 - Bushwhackers (Luke and Butch) Defeated The Powers Of Pain (Warlord and Barbarian) Via DQ (when Manager Sonny Blaze got caught using Warlord's trident - Poor ending to a very so-so match - \* and that's generous)
- 9 - "Magnificent" Don Muraco Rolled Up The Honkey Tonk Man For A Win Via Pinfall (At least it was fast - half \*)



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This week we feature the second part of a three part interview with Dave Meltzer, Publisher of **The Wrestling Observer** newsletter. **The Observer** is widely considered as the #1 source for wrestling information in the world today. In this segment, Dave discusses the national expansion of Vince McMahon in late 1983-84, and how that opened up a whole new need for wrestling information for those involved with the business, and those fans who were hungry for information.

**PWS:** How early on were people from inside the business tuned into what the Observer was doing?

**DM:** Probably from the beginning. I really didn't start talking to people in the business until a year after I started. People told me that Howard Finkle of the WWF loved it and had every issue. He subscribed under his girlfriends' (now his wife) name from the very beginning. So the WWF front office was familiar with it right from the start.

**PWS:** How was the response from the readers early on, as the idea of revealing inside information of the wrestling business was almost untouched territory back then?

**DM:** I got almost nothing negative for the first couple of years.

**PWS:** What about from people inside the business? Do you remember the first time you really pissed someone off over something you printed?

**DM:** You know, I rarely ever hear about stuff like that, with very few exceptions. Most people complain to someone else, and it will get back to me. The number of people who directly complained to me about something I've written is not as large as you would think. This is over ten years. There have been some instances.

**PWS:** The national explosion of wrestling really began to take off in 1984. How did this coincide with the growth of the Observer. Did you advertise the newsletter? How much did word of mouth help you?

**DM:** I was in the magazines, but I think a lot of the growth has to do with word of mouth. I think that period, 1984-86, was where it really took off because the wrestling magazines didn't really cover the expansion or the business end of it. The business end of it became such a big deal because people saw their favorite local wrestlers jump to the WWF. Later there were mergers, like when the NWA and AWA formed Pro Wrestling USA. In fact, almost all the groups tried to come together. There were so many political things going on. For a while, The Observer was the only way that kind of information was getting out to the public. That's where the initial popularity burst came from.

**PWS:** Did the national expansion of McMahon influence your decision to publish weekly?



**DM:** What made me decide to go weekly was that in 1985 I decided I didn't want to do The Observer anymore. After the first Wrestlemania I had gotten a new job, and I didn't think I would have time to do The Observer. To be honest, in 1985, after the success of that first Wrestlemania, I thought Vince McMahon was going to, within a year, take over every single company, and he would be the only person in the business. My feeling was the WWF would be the only wrestling. I thought I would be pretty bored covering one wrestling promotion here in the U.S. That's how impressive that first Wrestle Mania was, as far as being a media success. I didn't think that Watts, the NWA, or the others were going to hold up. All of that, with the new job, I didn't think I had the time to devote to The Observer. I started editing a soccer magazine. I ended up enjoying covering pro wrestling a little more. I really couldn't stay away from it. I was doing a thirty page newsletter every three weeks, and I ended up sending out little results pages every two weeks to correspondents. I wanted to keep in touch with everybody, but I really didn't want the pressures of doing a newsletter. What happened was, people were almost begging me to get the results out to them, and I found that it was a lot easier to do six to eight pages every week, than it was to do thirty pages every three weeks. Doing those thirty page newsletters was a killer. I was reaching the same amount of people. They wanted the newsletter whether it was 6, 8, 10 or 30 pages. I wound up going to a weekly format pretty rapidly after that.

When I went weekly, the circulation really shot up. People just wanted their wrestling news quicker because of all the TV that was beginning to be produced. That's how The Observer of this format was born. I used to have photos and graphics. It was a harder process to put together, and the fact was, the readers were buying The Observer for the news content, not for photos and graphics. To this day, I still don't spend time on layout, and there are no graphics whatsoever. I just print the news, and that's it. That's what The Observer is.

**PWS:** When wrestling was the "media darling" back in the mid-80's, did you find more and more professional types subscribing to it?

**DM:** Believe it or not, there are a lot more now than then. The Observer has grown so much. There have always been a lot of people, so called media types, that subscribe and love The Observer. Local radio personality Ted Robinson used to tell me how he used to do radio for the Golden State Warriors, and how the players used to love reading it. He used to tell me how some owners of some small baseball teams loved it. When we were kids, there were always some famous people who went to see wrestling. A lot of celebrities used to love wrestling long before Arsenio Hall came along.

**PWS:** What is a typical week in the life of Dave Meltzer?

**DM:** (Laughing) I don't know if there is one! Monday is just writing all day. I try to get The Observer to the printer by 10 or 11 AM on Tuesdays. Sunday I try to gather information. During the week is always gathering information. In some ways you can say it is an arduous process, except I really never get tired of it. I could do it 100 hours a week, and I'm sure there are some weeks I have, and I can't say it never gets old. Dealing with dishonest people is the only time it gets old. When you deal with wrestlers and crank out ideas with them, that's fun.

**PWS:** Since starting The Observer, what have been the most exciting stories you've covered?

**DM:** This thing now (The WWF scandals) have been the biggest. It's the biggest story I've ever had to cover. It has forced me to upgrade my skills professionally. I think that every big story forces you to learn and make changes, and this one has forced me more than any of the other ones have. I can't even come up with any one story which has had an impact in the magnitude that this one has. When Bruiser Brody died, that was a huge story to me personally. As far as being memorable, in a real negative way, that stands out far above everything else. When David Von Erich died, that was a huge story. He was a 24 year old kid. At the time I was living in Texas. I remember the day he died. I went to a local mall, and there were kids crying. It was a real interesting thing. I realized that the media was so unaware of the power of the World Class Wrestling promotion. WCCW was so hot, and David was such an idol to the teenage kids. The entire Von Erich family was. They did such a great job promoting themselves. History has shown us what ended up happening to them. It's a horrible story. When David died, I was working for a newspaper in Wichita, Texas. The day he died, I went to our sports editor and said, "Man, we got to do a story on this", and the sports editor said, "A story on this? On a wrestler dying?" To him it was just a "fake" wrestler dying. In that whole Dallas area, I don't care what anyone says, that was far and away the biggest story of the month. The local newspaper devoted a few paragraphs the first day it broke. Two days later they all realized how big a story it was. By the time the funeral came, it was a banner on the front page. With the deaths of Mike, Chris and even Brody, it was front page news. Even with Gino Hernandez, because the media in Texas realized from what happened to David, the level of interest by the kids, and a lot of the adults, was huge. In some ways, the Von Erich tragedy, because it was the first major death in that way that I ever had to deal with, was a hard story. The Brody story was very, very hard to deal with.

This whole deal today, the steroid story, has been very hard, very frustrating, and a lot of fun, all wrapped up in one. It's forced me to really educate myself on the subject. I've had to deal with people who use a lot of technical terms and a lot of bullshit, to try to pull the wool over the eyes of the media. I am really happy with the fact that I was equipped to deal with that subject from start to finish.

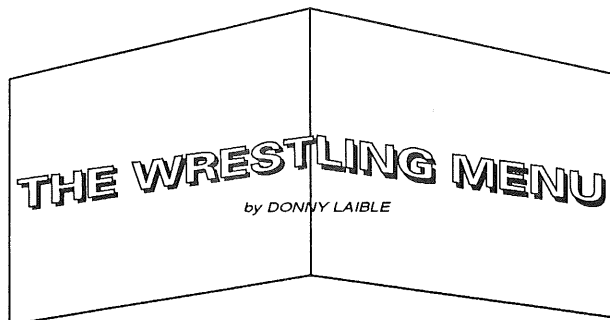
**PWS:** How do you react when people tell you that publications like The Observer, and wrestling reporters like Dave Meltzer are helping to kill the wrestling business?

**DM:** I have an attitude about that. If the truth, which is what I try to do with The Observer, is hurting the business, then the business needs to look at itself, not at the messenger. They are trying to blame the messenger for the problems of the business. Yeah, this business has problems, and if the business would address some of its own problems, we wouldn't be writing about as many of them. It's the business' inability to come to grips with what it really is, if anything, that's hurting it.

**PWS:** What about the complaints of your exposing too much, giving out too much inside information?

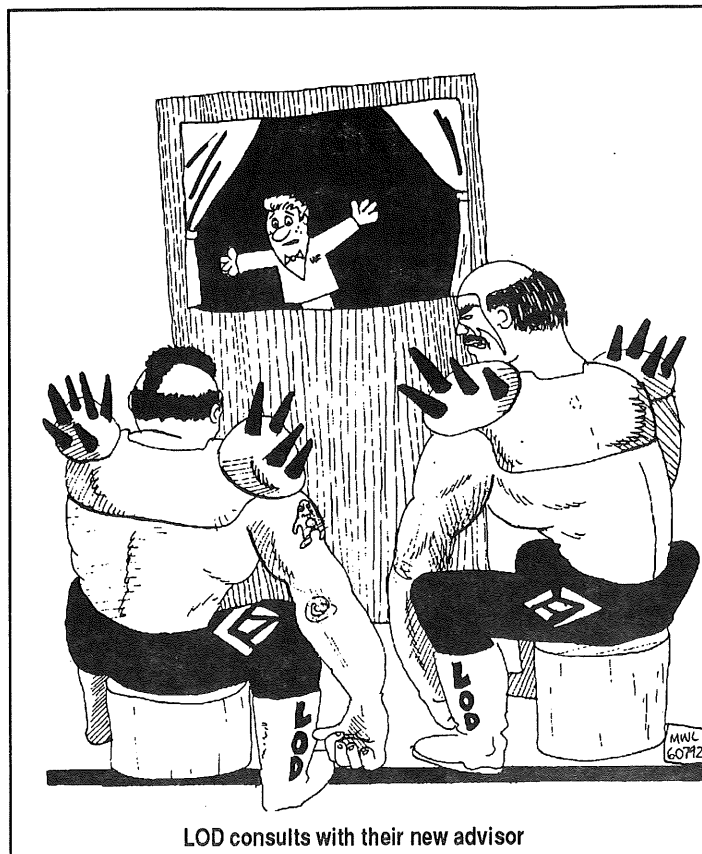
**DM:** I don't know what type of inside information that's supposed to mean, that I'm exposing too much of. I don't expose anything that anyone with a brain can't see. Vince McMahon's own people have testified in various states to what wrestling is. I'm just covering wrestling on how it really is. By and large, wrestling fans are going to wrestling for entertainment. I think if we were to take a per capita, a cross section, and compare it with readers of wrestling magazines on the newsstands, those who just watch it on TV, and Observer readers, you'll find my readers attend far more live shows, they buy every single Pay Per View, and generally spend far more money on wrestling than anyone. Some people in the business will never accept that. No matter what I write, I still have a very positive effect on all of their cash flows. When you get right down to it, people who read The Observer get far more intrigued about wrestling, not less. Right now, I think people are getting turned off because there are things happening in the business that those running it do not want to deal with honestly. If it weren't for that, by and large, people who read The Observer, get far more into the soap opera and the business of wrestling. They want to read how many stars a match gets, they don't want to miss any Pay Per Views, because they know there is an important or intriguing thing that might happen.

**NEXT WEEK** Dave talks about the future of the wrestling business, Vince McMahon, and lots more! Don't miss part three of the Dave Meltzer interview.



What's on my mind this week? Girls! Girls! Girls! (No, not the Elvis movie.) Read on and you'll find out. Just how long will we have to wait with cash in hand to buy our very own "Freckles" puppet at a WWF show? Remember the boomerangs that The Fabulous Kangaroos would throw into the audiences? Chief Jay Strongbow did something similar in the early stages of his Indian days by tossing cardboard tomahawks at ringsiders - anyone out there have one?

On one hand it's a sad situation to see Promoter Don Owen exit the wrestling business, then again, is there a medal large enough and more meaningful than say, a healthy retirement check to present to him for surviving nearly 70 years in wrestling? I wonder if guys who Don helped launch their mat careers, such as Piper, Snuka and Ventura have thought about pitching in and sending him on a cruise? Now hear this, and I'm only going to warn you once. When the doors fling open on August 29, 1992 at **The Weekend Of Champions Convention**, yours truly will be making a bee-line for Fred Hornby's table of goodies. It's program heaven!...While at the convention, or if you get a chance to look through a book store offering back issues of magazines, search for Ring Wrestling-August 1979. Turn to page 30.



Anyone you know? I don't know why the thought just popped into my head, but here's a history lesson. George Temple, Jr., the brother of former movie actress Shirley Temple, wrestled professionally for four years after making his debut on March 22, 1946. It's been said that George and Angelo Savoldi were the best of friends. (If you think I need professional help, someone please call Dr. Bernard Schwartz if he's still with us.)

Quiz time - pencil and paper in hand, gang! Who comprised the tag team known as 'The Hollywood Blondes' during the 1970's in the NWA's Los Angeles office? Here's a couple more from the 'But, did you know?', department - as far as managers go: Bobby Wallace was replaced by Bobby Davis as "Nature Boy" Buddy Rogers' cornerman, the late Fred Atkins managed Giant Baba in North America during the 1960's and while Pedro Morales held the WWF heavyweight strap it was Gorilla Monsoon serving as his adviser.

Anyone know whatever became of The Mighty Wilbur? Scratch the search party for Sky Low Low, find me Stan Stasiak - there's a reward...A hearty 'Menu' thank you goes out to Howard Kotlus of Dix Hills, NY for Xeroxing a copy of the double issue of **The Pro Wrestling Spotlight Newsletter** for me...To those of you who live in Las Vegas, check out Rick Carter and Bill Kunkle's Wrestle Talk radio show on KLAV-AM 1230 Sundays from 12Noon-2PM. The call-in line is (702)731-1230 and for tape info you can write to them at 1871 Quintearo Street, Las Vegas, NV 89115. Recently former "Mr. Everything" from the Los Angeles wrestling scene a few years back, Jeff Walton, was a guest speaking of among other things - the Olympic Auditorium's glory days.

Jeff told a funny story about a prank Freddie Blassie played on a referee who had the reputation as being extremely cheap. Blassie would drop pennies in a urinal, inside the bathroom of the dressing room. Sure enough, when the ref hit the john, those coins were scooped up and pocketed

- the boys would rib him something fierce. If you're a nostalgia buff, you'll want to get a copy of that show.

Is it still campaign season? What the heck, here's my platform to Bill Watts. As the man who is viewed by many who will return traditional values (and fannies to arena seats) to WCW - don't forget about the importance of women wrestlers to the sport. No, I don't mean the T&A show a majority of those lacing up boots today exhibit, but girls who can get in the ring and wrestle. Respect for the girls in the States went out the window generally speaking in the early 1980's. Here's one vote for Debbie Combs as champion. I'm not calling for the girls to be on every WCW presentation, just a fair shake at proving their worth.

Is it safe to proclaim the WWF is a costume party in search of a holiday?

I received a phone call a few nights back from former manager "Crybaby" George Cannon - you remember him, over 400 lbs. and wearing a ring jacket that bore the slogan-"I am right", on its back. Recently while at the Cauliflower Alley Club Banquet, Cannon ran into an old acquaintance, former boxing great Archie Moore. The only thing to put a damper on the reunion, Moore refused to believe the fellow he was speaking to was indeed, Cannon.

Well, after a bout with cancer last year, George slimmed down to 215 lbs. (yes, you read correctly) so now you know why Moore didn't recognize him. After unsuccessfully getting Moore to believe George, the ex-manager of The Fabulous Kangaroos overheard Archie warning a group of old-time boxers and wrestlers that some guy was attempting to pass himself off as Cannon.

By a show of hands, how many of you miss Norm Kietzer's arena programs and his regional issues of The Wrestling News? Check out the article in Wrestling Eye-July 1992 issue on the demise of the TWA...Chris Duffy, the guy who worked with Tatsumi Fujinami in Philly is a second Bobby Eaton, and well deserving a shot at the big-time. Although not sporting a physique that would confuse him with members of the WBF, Duffy can and has taken bumps as wild as Bobby and Cactus Jack have...For the record-The Samoans: Afa and Sika had their pro debut in Phoenix, AZ against The Hells Angels - Chris Colt and Ronnie DuPree.

Now, when you speak of strange personalities to grace promotions over the last three decades, Colt has to be in the top ten - easy! One of his former tag mates Count Drummer used to sleep in a coffin, placed in his apartment's living room. I swear, I'm not making this up...Big show being booked by Tony Rumble in Wallingford, CT for June 28th which includes The Honky Tonk Man, Jimmy Snuka, Don Muraco, The Bushwhackers and several other top names.

Dig through your magazine collection and dust off issue #1 of the WWF's Victory magazine from 1983. Read the articles, check out the photos and the art work. Now I ask you, was it or wasn't it respectable journalistic project? Too bad they changed format. Lots of history given on those featured in the articles...

Did you know Lou Albano's late father, Carmen Albano (a Pediatrician) developed forceps for breach births which are still used today? Lou's mother was a concert pianist. Wayne Ferris (the greatest Inter-Continental Champion of all-time) and Randy Rose teamed in the early 1980's as The Midnight Express...Promised to appear at the upcoming Ladies International Wrestling Association annual convention at the Dunnes in Las Vegas are Sandy Parker, Kitty Adams, Mae Young and Sherri Martel. An eleven girl Battle Royal, featuring The Fabulous Moolah is scheduled as well.

Before diving into our Plug-O-Gram section, the quiz period is officially over - pencils down. The Hollywood Blondes, managed by Sir Oliver Humperdink were Jerry Brown and Dale Roberts.

Okay, here we go - Jimmy Little-P.O. Box 680, Grayson, LA 71435 is in search of old NWA programs from Florida and Georgia. He's also looking for copies of The Wrestling News (NWA) editions #26-51...If it's videos of Madusa you have, Ken Banks-Box 665, Passadumkeag, ME 04475 is the man you want to contact...Fan clubs are still alive. Billie Jessee-812 Burwind Ct. #6, Kingsport, TN 37660-5662 operates clubs for Ivan Koloff, The Fantastics and a couple of other wrestling people...Steve Boucher-37 Middlesex Road, Merrimack, NH 03054 edits Figure Four. Published bi-monthly, rates are \$9.00 annually...One of the fastest rising, respected publications is Three Count by Alex Marvez. \$6.00 for 4 issues gets it delivered to your door. Write Alex at 8850 S.W. 19th Street, Miami, FL 33165...Anyone with programs or posters of The Fabulous Kangaroos and "Killer" Kowalski are invited to write me concerning particulars...The Wrestling Flyer newsletter is a bi-weekly filled with news and results: call (215)556-6590 for details. (Have you found Stasiak yet?) Ralph Glickman-656 S. Ridgeley Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90036 is looking for 8X10's of wrestlers from the past...If you haven't tried a copy of Evan Ginzburg's, Wrestling Then And Now - shame on you. What a deal he has going - a package deal for back issues #1-28 (275 pages) for only \$22.50. Evan also offers a 1992 Annual - The 50 page "History Of The Territories" for \$7.00 - WT&N can be reached at: P.O. Box 471, Oakland Gardens Station, Flushing, NY 11364...The Wrestling Wire, published by B. Usowski-P.O. Box 537, Beaver Falls, PA 15010 sells for \$1.80 an issue and comes out approximately 10 times a year. Results, title changes, current news and occasional interviews fill up the Wire...Wrestling Inside And Out, Ron and Brent West-572 S. MacDonald Road, MacDonald, TN 37353 offers 13 weekly issues for \$25.00...VWA Newsstand, David Leehy-P.O. Box 34142, Richmond, VA 23234-0142 serves as the official program of the Virginia Wrestling Association...Bob Murphy-P.O. Box 951, Humble, TX 77347 has first-rate photos for sale of wrestlers appearing in Texas.

Let this column's readers know who your favorite tag team of all-time is and why. King Curtis and Baron Scicluna are number one in my book. You're invited to contact me about the king of sports-Pro Wrestling: Donny Laible-P.O. Box 443 Ilion, NY 13357

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## Vince DiPalma Speaks Out

Bill Watts' debut on "WCW Saturday Night" was powerful. He stressed the new rules and regulations and introduced Ole Anderson as head referee. As I was watching the program, I wondered if perhaps Bill is being a little too rigid with his so called "Ten Commandments of WCW." Rules are fine, as long as Bill does not attempt to turn this promotion into amateur wrestling. Ole is far too slow in the ring to be a good ref. He took an enormous amount of time in covering pinfalls.

WWF programs are getting more cartoonish by the week. The Papa Shango angle with the Ultimate Warrior is bizarre and that's putting it mildly. As other U.S. promotions try to return to traditional wrestling, Vince seems to be turning WWF into more and more fantasy.

Wish Dave "Piledriver" Schwartz would obtain a seven second delay mechanism for his Saturday afternoon WBAU "Main Event" show. It would stop the flow of idiots who call constantly, shouting profanity into their telephones. These jackasses ruin an otherwise good show, as Dave tries to present a serious product.

Pro Wrestling Spotlight Radio program moving to Saturdays at 11PM is a good move. Sundays at 11 was far too late. I spoke to several people who told me they stopped listening because of the late hour. When you have to get up early to go to work the next day, it can be pretty tough.

Sad to hear this years convention will be held at the Ramada again. I was looking forward to the Penta, but the rent was too high.

"Hotstuff" Eddie Gilbert's marriage to Madusa was one of the shortest on record. Eddie goes through marriages as fast as he does wrestling promotions.

Looks like Global's staying put in Dallas after all. Only thing is the rent will be raised.

New edict of Bill Watts discouraging out of the ring wrestling could be death knell for Cactus Jack. Jack is much better outside the ring than he is in it.

Eric Krol's comments about Lucha Libres wrestling were uncalled for. The recent Pro Wrestling Torch Weekly antic ripped anyone who is a fan of the promotion. I guess Eric feels anyone who likes something he doesn't is a fool. He implied tongue in cheek that "three Torch readers" enjoy CMLL.

Reminds me of what people say to me for watching WWF.

The recent Barry Windham/Arn Anderson 2 out of 3 falls match on WCW Saturday night was darn good. Of course, it had to be spoiled by the Steve Austin run in during the third fall. It's an insult to wrestling fans everywhere to keep doing these same tired finishes. Hope Bill Watts stops this nonsense pronto.

Jesse Ventura seems a little uncomfortable doing color commentary on WCW Worldwide. I blame it on unfamiliarity with the product, something he wasn't lacking in WWF.

Bodyslams to ya!

John Arezzi's Pro Wrestling Spotlight Newsletter is a publication of Pro Wrestling Spotlight Productions. Corporate Offices are located at 136 North Carll Avenue, Suite 125, Babylon, New York 11702. Subscriptions are 8 issues-\$12.00, 12 issues-\$15.00, 18 issues-\$24.00, 26 issues-\$30.00 and 52 issues-\$60.00. Overseas orders are \$20.00 for each set of 8 issues. Any unauthorized reproduction or distribution either in full or edited form is strictly forbidden without written permission from the publisher. Pro Wrestling Spotlight Productions™ 1992

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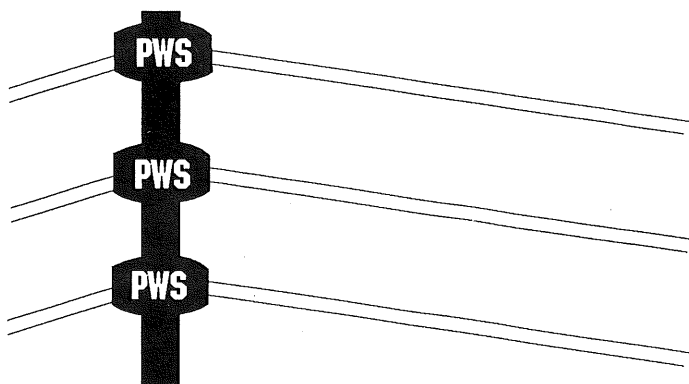
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## And in this Corner.....



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### The Musing Of A Disillusioned Fan

*By Vic Stanley*

Being a "semi-smart" wrestling fan like me during these last several months has meant being run through a gauntlet of emotional highs and lows. Initially, I greeted the scandals involving drug use, steroids, pedophilia and all manners of graft, extortion and corruption with glee; since wrestling had never been so interesting, complex and downright nasty. At last we were really getting down to the dirty details about persons and events which were only vague rumors before, and for a while it was exhilarating to be exposed to the innermost skeletons in wrestling's closets. So why have I soured on my beloved pseudo-sport? I think it's because the mystical aura which has always been so crucial and precious to wrestling has been destroyed. It's somewhat like walking in on Superman with his tights around his ankles, sitting on the toilet, having a smoke. It's not a pretty picture, but it's the one we will always remember. Who was it who said, "You can't go home again." I blame everybody, including myself, for the current state of wrestling. There is enough blame to go around. Obviously, the business itself must take responsibility for all of its sins and indiscretions, but haven't we all supported their greedy and seedy antics to a certain extent, consciously or not?

I never really had any inclination to be in that upper echelon of harder-than-hard core fans and newsletter editors who were almost snickering amongst themselves about some bit of gossip that they were sworn not to repeat outside of their own little circle of confidantes and compadres. Everybody who is anybody has their own, "confidential inside sources", and we must not do anything to betray the trust of those who were in turn betraying the trust of the very business which had fed them. In the grand scheme of things, just how important could it be, anyway? This isn't to say that what the newsletters do is wrong. It's no different from the way any "legitimate" newspaper acquires and disseminates information. That's just how this business works. Ask Arthur Ash. After all the accusations throughout the years that the newsletters exposed about the business, the business has done nothing but expose itself, and what was revealed was worse than most of us could have even imagined. But when did being a wrestling fan become a business?

Ironically, I now find myself an honorary member of this self-appointed elite group. I occasionally get those frantic, breathless late night calls revealing that nights legit injuries, firings, resignations or the next wave of WWF sex scandals even before Geraldo can sniff them out. Now I know the various reasons certain wrestlers of questionable talent have received seemingly undeserved pushes and I am so much of a better person because of it. But here I am - a fairly recognizable name in the genre myself - the very essence of what I am condemning - exploiting this newsletter to lambaste everything that I, myself have become.

I have extremely mixed thoughts about the hallowed second coming of Bill Watts. True, he might not intensify the action in WCW, but at what cost? I fear that Watts' legendary race baiting xenophobia may once again rear its ugly head. Combine that with his pro-blood, anti-ring mats, and no-fraternizing policies. I wonder if Watts really has the best interests of the wrestlers in mind. Only time will tell. The business has changed for the better in many ways, as well as for the worse in others. Many wrestlers may not be willing to take a giant step back if their own best interests are not considered in the equation. Watts will not hesitate to fire any lower and mid level malcontents if they object to his iron clad doctrines, but what happens when it's the Stings or the Steiners or the Windhams or the Rhodes' who disagree with his policies? Watts has a great business mind for '70's style wrestling, but those days are long one. I personally do not feel that Kip Frey was given a fair chance to show what he could do. His changes to date have not all been successful, but he at least seemed willing to learn, experiment and compromise. Watts thinks he knows it all - end of issue. WCW will live or die by him. Perhaps Ted Turner has already realized that wrestling is more trouble than it is worth, and after this drastic change of direction he will have tried every conceivable approach to make a go of it. Perhaps he considers the failure of WCW as a self fulfilling prophecy at this point - a tax write off - a relief.

As for the WWF, it's obvious that McMahon is panicked almost to the point of a nervous breakdown. Due to the nature and epic proportions of his personal scandals, he is greatly distracted and simply cannot concentrate on running his empire properly. Since he is also on a desperate search for non-steroid and recreational drug abusing, not easily intimidated wrestlers - a commodity which totally conflicts with his former policies, he is finding the pickings pretty slim. His wholesome family entertainment facade is a complete sham, unless you consider the fact that all children vomit at one time or another, and can relate to the Warrior's current plight. Maybe that's the justification for his "wholesome" Exorcist-like antics. McMahon's roster of headliners has never been weaker, and his current angles reveal an air of unprecedented desperation and confusion. But in light of all his legal woes, his in-ring product is not much more than an afterthought to us hard cores. It's not even worth talking about anymore. McMahon has proven to us what we always suspected anyway. His imminent doom is disappointing and anti-climactic.

I may be the ultimate cynic, but I'm not the only wrestling fan who feels this way. Many of my friends share my discontent about the current state of the business. We are no longer taking and delight in the disorganization, the confusion, the scandals...Maybe that's the problem - it's nothing more than one huge, crummy business. Maybe it's time to vote in H. Ross Perot as the undisputed czar of wrestling. Yeah - that's the ticket!

## Mat Memories

Dear John,

I was reading your Mat Memories column and boy did it make me recall the good days of wrestling. I have been following wrestling since my father got me interested in about 1959-60. (I'm presently 40.) The first match I remember watching on TV was with Antonio Rocca. My mother and father would always wake me up on Saturday night if Rocca was on the show.

I got interested in it full-time, and I think my father was sorry he introduced me to it. As I started watching the TV matches, I can remember my favorite wrestler turned out to be Buddy Rogers. What an arrogant, snotty SOB. The strut and cocky attitude which no one today, not even Ric Flair, can copy. He was great. I could never get enough of watching Rogers. I only got to see him in person once, when wrestling came to Poughkeepsie, at the outdoor show at Eastman Oval Ballpark. He defeated Johnny Valentine with his 'figure-four.'

I attended some cards that were held at the Avalon Rollerdrome in Newburgh, New York. This was in about 1962-63. I was in the bathroom when Haystacks Calhoun walked in so mad because he couldn't fit in the stall. That night I forget who he wrestled, but he did sign one of the old black & white glossies they used to sell for a dollar. I also remember watching Arnold Skaaland pin Pete Sanchez (but then again, who didn't pin Sanchez), Bruno bear hug Monsoon into defeat and Miguel Perez drop Mr. Orton Sr. at the Eastman card.

I also remember the first wrestling magazine I ever laid eyes on. I still have it. It was the June 1962 issue of the original Wrestling Revue, with full color pin up of Ray Stevens. First fan club newsletter for me was Matmania, (Burt Ray), and I still have two years worth of them someplace.

Later in the years I became a police officer, (as I am today) and stopped this car on Route 9 one night for speeding and one headlight out. The operator with long blonde hair emerged from the vehicle and kept getting taller...and taller. His drivers license stated his name was Barry Windham! He left with a warning and I left with an autograph...Pretty good deal.

Very Truly Yours,  
Mark J. Lieberman

Send your Mat Memory, c/o Pro Wrestling Spotlight Productions, 136 N. Carl Avenue, Suite 125, Babylon, NY 11702

NEXT WEEK: More Fans Mat Memories

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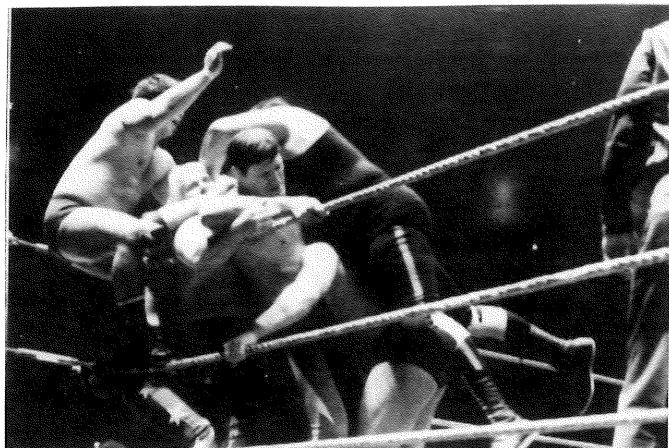
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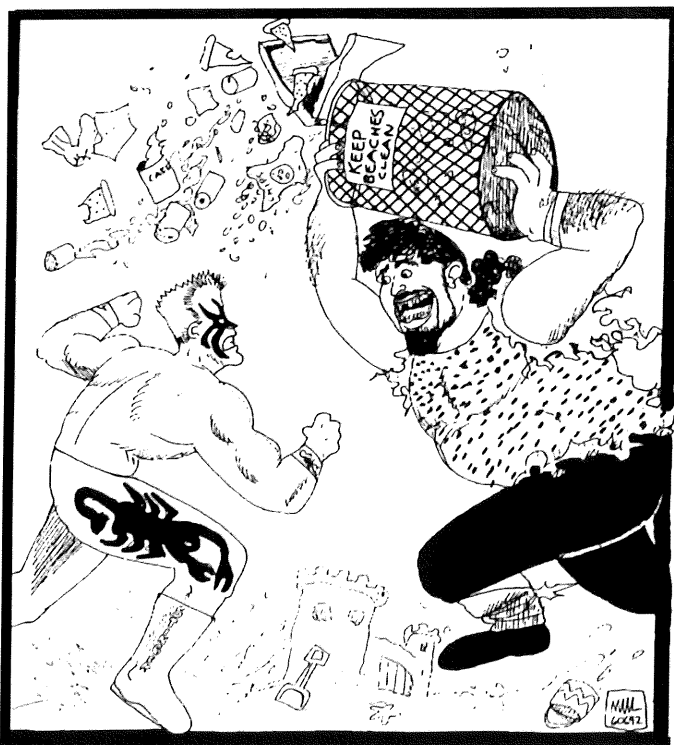


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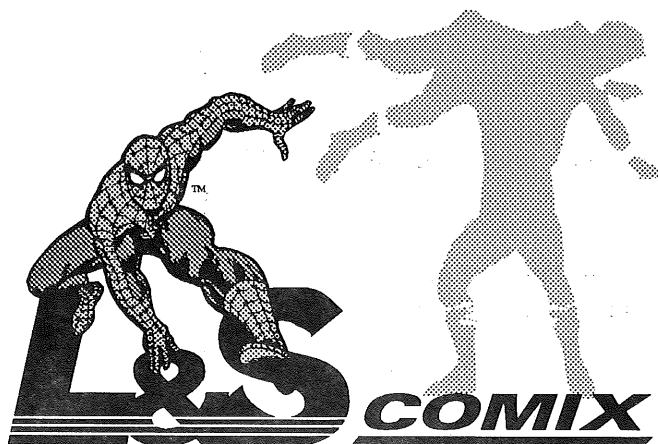
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